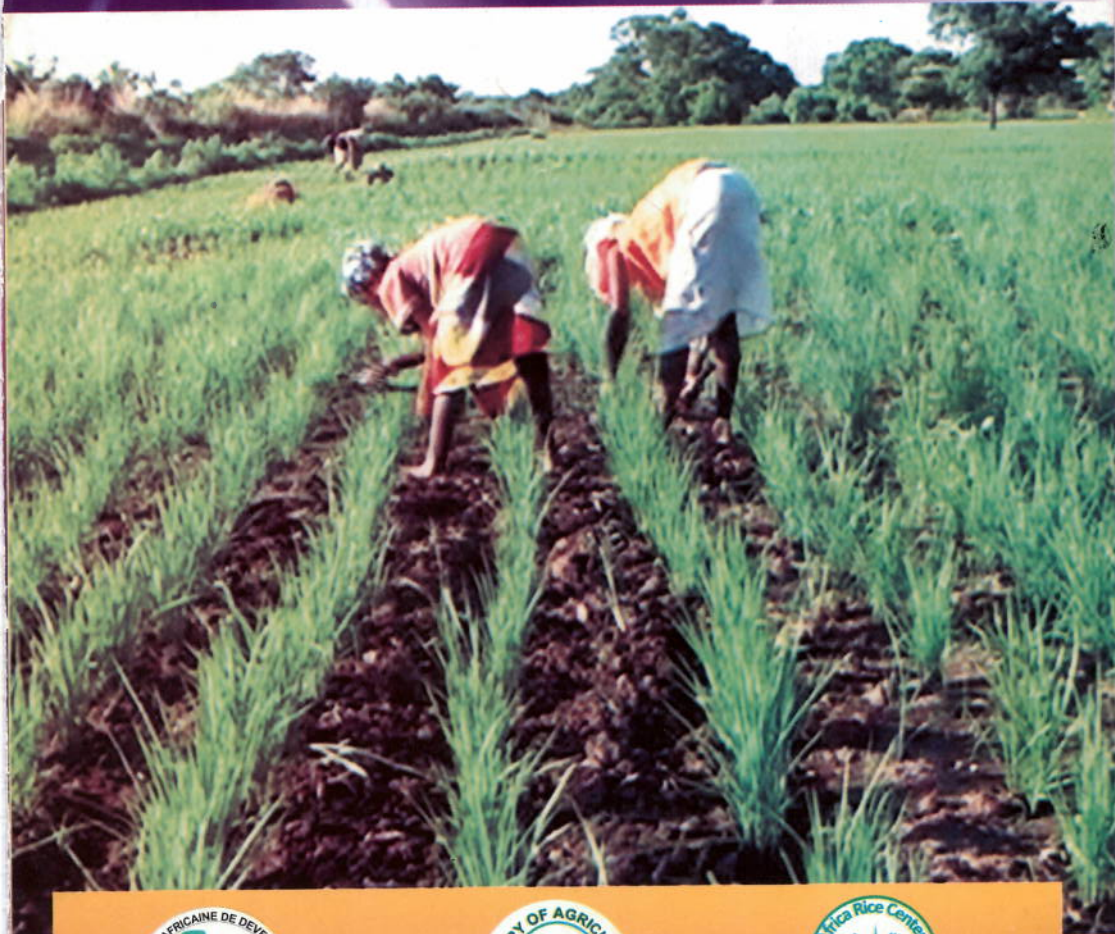


# GOOD WEED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN LOWLAND RICE FIELD.



**AfricaRice**

**Small Holders Agricultural Productivity  
Enhancement And Commercialization (SAPEC) Project.**

## WHAT WEED DOES TO YOUR RICE FARM

- ★ Weeds are unwanted plants on your rice fields.
- ★ They make land preparation difficult.
- ★ They compete with your rice for water and soil nutrients.
- ★ They harbor pests and diseases for your rice.
- ★ They reduce your rice yields.
- ★ They are most harmful to your rice plant during the first six weeks of growth, therefore keep weeds off your rice field during this period.
- ★ Weed direct sown field twice: Firstly, at about 3 weeks after sowing (4 leaves stage) and secondly at 2-3 weeks later (around the tillering stage).
- ★ Transplanted field can be weeded first just around the tillering period (2-3 weeks after transplanting), thereafter, additional weeding should be done as found necessary.



## MAJOR TYPE OF WEEDS ON RICE FIELD ARE;

- ★ Weeds that live for one year and after producing seed dies away : annual weeds.
- ★ Weeds that continue to grow after seed production because they have special root system : perennial weeds.
- ★ Weed type determines the management method to apply.
- ★ Annual weeds should be controlled before they flower .
- ★ Roots of perennial weeds should be targeted for effective control.



Annual Weed



Perennial Weed

## WEED MANAGEMENT

Complete elimination of weed is unrealistic and not necessary.  
Weed should be managed to acceptable level.



## STEPS IN WEED MANAGEMENT ARE:

### 1. Land preparation:

- Carefully plough your land to bury the weed seed and roots.
- Level your rice field very well.
- Flood the field for about 2 weeks to kill the weed seed.



### 2. CLEAR IRRIGATION WATER.

- Weed seed can get to your field through irrigation water.
- Clear your irrigation canals and make all the canal free from weeds.
- Flush the irrigation water first, before using the water to flood your field.



Cleared canal



Unmaintained canal

### 3. HIGH QUALITY SEED.

- Use clean high quality healthy seed that is free from weed seed.



Don't use



Use

### 4. HIGH TILLERING VARIETIES

- Use varieties with high tillering ability like Nerica-L19, IR-841
- Such varieties suppresses weed easily.



### 5. PLANTING METHOD AND DENSITY.

- Transplanting 2 weeks old seedling gives your rice advantage over the weeds.
- Plant at spacing of 20cm X 20cm.
- The more the space, the more you give chance to the weed to compete with your rice.
- However, too close spacing reduces the tillering ability of your rice.



## 6. FLOODING.

- a. Weed seed will not be able to germinate when they are under the water. Therefore, maintain a layer of water on the field during the vegetative growth of the rice. But remember to drain the water if you want to apply fertilizer.



## 7. USE OF TOOLS.

- a. Weeds can be managed by hand removal or use of tools.
- b. When rice is planted in rows, use of tools for weed management is easier.



## 8. USE OF CHEMICALS.

- a. Use chemicals with great care, because they can damage your crops and pollute the environment if not well managed.
- b. Choose the right product because different weeds require different chemicals, seek advice to know the appropriate chemical to use.
- c. Apply the herbicide at the right time, by strictly following the instructions on the labels.
- d. Do not apply herbicide during windy and rainy condition.
- e. Always protect yourself when using chemicals.



**Managing weed can be achieved.  
Ensure there is no competition between your rice and weeds,  
the crop will be healthy and give you high yield**

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